

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 731, INFORMATION BELGRADE UNNUMBERED

We assume shipping clauses in foreign aid appropriation bill (DEPTEL 508) will not effect any future PL-480 agreement as such sales would not be considered economic assistance.

Four point action re Cuban shipping may, however, have serious consequences for PL-480. Facts re Polish, Cuban shipping as know them follow.

The Polish vessels BALTYK, BIALYSTOK, KOPALNIA WUJEK, NARWIK and WYSPANSKI are known to have carried cargo to Cuba. In addition newspaper DZIENNIK BALTYCKI March 6, 1962 reported opening of a regular line between Poland and Cuba using 1. ships. Newspaper GLOS SZEZECINSKI April 30, 1962 also reported this line and indicated the use of five Polish ships. Information re cargo is sketchy but possibility transport Czech arms cannot be excluded.

In addition Poland has already delivered two fishing trawlers to Cuba and is building four merchant ships Sierra Maestra (completed), Comandant Farjaro, Aracelio Iglicia and Camilio Cienfuego. Earlier reports indicated these ships being built East Germany but weight evidence now indicates construction in Poland.

It will of course be difficult to know whether Polish ships are carrying arms to Cuba.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

: ships

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